and other places of Andhra Pradesh and alleged illegal detention of twenty girl children in an unauthorized orphanage run by an American couple in Karnataka, Bangalore.

(b) After preliminary investigations, the State Government had initiated action against some agencies. Two of these namely, (i) Indian Council for Social Welfare, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh and (ii) John Abraham Memorial Bethany Home, Tandur, Andhra Pradesh, which were Central Government recognized placement agencies, were immediately de-recognized. A detailed inquiry is being conducted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

After receipt of reports from Andhra Pradesh about the irregularities, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have issued directives to all the State Governments to take stringent action against organizations indulging in illegal activities in the field of adoption. All the State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps to prevent such incidents in future which *inter alia* include:

(i) Licensing of all Residential Homes & setting up of State adoptions unit.

(ii) Joint inspection should take place of orphanages and agencies.

(iii) Enforcement of Orphanages & other Charitable Homes Act, 1960.

(iv) Monitoring of adoption activities quoting recent happening in Andhra Pradesh.

Further, directives have also been issued to the concerned agencies and organizations to streamline their activities and adhere strictly to the Government guidelines in this regard.

Atrocities on women

†3258. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking necessary measures to check increasing atrocities being committed on women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are insisting on setting up special women's courts in various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments stressing upon them the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crime against women. The advisories issued to the State Governments include *inter-alia*, setting up of exclusive women police stations, setting up women police cells in police stations, setting of Crime against Women Cell in districts where they do not exit, hearing of rape cases by a court presided over by a lady magistrate, investigation of a rape case of a victim less than 18 years of age by women police officers and in the presence of parents and/or relatives, wider recruitment of women in police forces, setting up of special Women Courts in each district, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers etc.

Increasing terrorism and smuggling in the country

†3259. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken by Government to check increasing terrorism and smuggling of intoxicants in the country;

(b) the number of terrorist organisations active in the country at present;

(c) the action taken by Government to curb their activities during the last two years and the number of terrorist organisations apprehended and punished;

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to maintain law and order and counter smuggling and terrorist activities in the States. Government have adopted a well coordinated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.